

Central Office Notes and Activities



♦ The **Network of Women in State Government** will meet March 31 at 11:30 a.m. at Columbia Steak House. The program will be on retirement issues for women, and is open to the public.

♦ Nominations for **CFC Employees of the Month** are due by the 15th of each month. For more information, or to submit a nomination, contact Charlene Nation of the Employee Services Branch, CHR-5, phone 564-7770. She will also accept nominations sent by e-mail.

♦ Everyone is invited to attend a **retirement reception** for **Edie Crews Starcher** of the Division of Adult and Child Health, **March 29 from 2-4 p.m. in the Health Services boardroom**. If you would like to contribute towards a gift and/or refreshments, contact Janet Luttrell, Regenia Kaselow, or Lois Robinson at 564-7996.

♦ The **aerobics program** meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 p.m. in the cafeteria. Call Beth Bates at 564-7736 for more information.

♦ There has been a **change in the date** for the annual March of Dimes fundraiser, **Walk America**. State employees will walk May 21; not April 16 as was previously reported. Plan now to participate.

♦ Reminder: the **elevators should be vacated** during **emergency evacuations**, except for those employees or visitors with disabilities. Everyone possible should use the escalators and stairs.

Donated Sick Leave Needed

Jean Herrell of CFC's Procurement Branch will be on medical leave for approximately six weeks, and needs donated sick leave. Please contact Charlene Nation at 564-7770 to donate time.

Susie Miller, an employee of CFC's Community Based Services in Fulton, also needs donated sick leave. She has been on medical leave for back surgery since January. To donate time, contact Gary Brooks at 502/472-1638

Pipeline, a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinets for Families and Children and Health Services, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for *Pipeline* are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; items for intercom announcements are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday. Call (502) 564-6786 or send information to Patricia Loman at Patricia.Boler@mail.state.ky.us.

Program to Help Fathers Find Work



CFC's Division of Child Support was on hand when Fayette County announced a new program March 24 to help low-income, non-custodial parents find and keep employment. The program, called Fresh Start, seeks to reduce welfare payments by helping participants become financially responsible for their children. It involves several Lexington social service providers and government agencies, and will provide incentives to employers who hire program participants.

Funds for the Lexington pilot include a \$2.8 million federal grant to the Community Action Council, and a \$450,000 grant to the Mayor's Job Training Center. LexLinc, a non-profit agency, will oversee the program.

Goals of the program go beyond helping non-custodial fathers obtain and keep employment so they can afford child support. The program will also encourage fathers to become actively involved in their children's lives, and develop an emotional bond with them.

Fresh Start is similar to fatherhood initiatives started in Georgia four years ago that seek to provide jobs for non-custodial parents of children receiving welfare. It's the first of its kind in Kentucky.

For more information on the Lexington project, call Wanda Faircloth of LexLinc at (606)381-1302.

Education Pays

The Cabinet for Health Services is looking for employees who want to get their GED. Under Governor Paul Patton's "Education Pays" campaign the cabinet would offer GED classes in the building, either during lunch or after work, for employees. A survey will soon be sent to all personnel in the cabinet to determine interest. Please look for it and respond promptly. Education really does pay!



Congrats!

Nicole Rodgers, Administrative Secretary I, Division of Family Support, Program Assistance and Resource Branch, has a new baby girl. Her name is Nakiyah. She was born on March 22 at 1:53 p.m., weighed 7lbs 8ozs, and she was 19 1/2 inches long.



The Pipeline

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Town Meetings Address Safety Concerns

A coalition of state and federal officials assured employees of the Human Resources-Health Services complex that recent bomb threats are being taken very seriously.

Employees voiced their safety concerns during two "town meeting" sessions on March 24. Employees heard from officials from several in-house agencies, as well as the Kentucky State Police, which is investigating the recent threats; the U.S. General Services Administration, which is in charge of security issues in federal buildings; and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), which investigates incidents involving explosives.

CHS Secretary John Morse said the Human Resources-Health Services Building complex has received a total of nine bomb threats since last November. This has resulted in 11 hours out of the building for evacuations, plus time spent talking and worrying about the situation, "essentially destroying our productivity," Secretary Morse said.

In order to avoid jeopardizing the ongoing investigation, State Police, Major Don Weedman gave few details about the status of the case. But he assured employees that police are working with the phone company to identify where threatening calls are originating.

Weedman said employees are the best source of information – they are the most familiar with the buildings, and would be the first to recognize anything unusual or out of place. An employee taking a threatening call may obtain valuable information by catching the caller off guard with very direct questions, such as asking for the caller's name.

IN CASE OF A BOMB THREAT:

Call the building superintendent's office at 564-2640. Be available to talk to investigating officials.

Use the checklist in the booklet distributed by AFT.

Remember, a bomb can look like anything; if you don't know what it is, don't touch it. Be aware of anything unusual or out of place and report it to the building superintendent or other officials.

"We are concerned for your safety," Major Weedman said, and other officials echoed that sentiment.

Several agencies, including the Department of Facilities Management in the Finance and Administration Cabinet, and the Division of Emergency Management, are working on a

statewide emergency plan, and the Human Resources-Health Services Building complex will be the first site where the plan will be implemented. ATF will help staff develop a bomb management plan, and "building hardening" – the process of creating a secure building – also is being studied. Building hardening will be tailored to the complex, and employee suggestions will be considered. "The Finance Cabinet is committed to the project and will spend what we have to for this to happen," said Facilities Management Commissioner Armand Russ.

The following security measures have been implemented:

- Security guards now patrol all areas of the complex four times each day.
- Janitors' closets, and other such areas where a bomb could be easily hidden, are being kept locked.
- Clutter is being cleared, and all employees are asked to keep work areas orderly.

These measures, and more, are being studied:

- Limit public access to the first floor, where all public areas, including the credit union, Vital Statistics, and the cafeteria will be located.
- Concrete barriers.
- Security for the tunnel entrance.
- Require sign-in sheets in certain areas.
- I.D. badges and keypad entry for employees.
- Posting better signs decrease visitors wandering the building.
- An information desk at each escalator.
- Limited access and parking for delivery trucks.
- Eliminating or restricting parking under the overhang in front of the building.

If you have any suggestions for increased safety, or need a copy of the ATF booklet, contact the lead safety monitor for your area: 1st floor - Barbara White or Bill Cornish; 2nd floor - Danny Goins or Brad McGill; 3rd floor - Randall Hancock; 4th floor - Jimmy Haggard or James Driver; 5th floor -- Bart Bolin; 6th floor -- Cindy Watts. You may also contact Andrew Bland, Darrell Welch, or Ann Hall.